

Delegate Assembly

POSITIONS ADDRESSED

IN THE 2020 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Delegate Assembly resolutions provide Association leadership and staff with direction. Some prompt the introduction of legislation, others establish positions for or against measures contained in existing legislation. Some resolutions call for other action – typically dealing with the federal government, the State Board of Education, or member districts.

IASB Position Statements are relevant to hundreds of pieces of legislation each year in Springfield. The 2020 session began as usual with hundreds of bills being introduced. The first few weeks of session in February saw many bills posted to committees, but few heard. Then in early March, the pandemic shut the world down and the entire 2020 session was condensed into a few omnibus bills passed in a few days in May. Enclosed is a summary of action taken by IASB regarding key Delegate Assembly positions:



1.09 STUDENT ASSESSMENT — IASB supported the provision in Public Act 101-0643 (SB 1569), the education omnibus, which removes the requirement for standardized assessments if the U.S. Department of Education provides a waiver of such.

2.32 PROPERTY TAX BASE — IASB is the only education association to consistently oppose any expansion of homestead exemptions. Provisions in two different bills were opposed that would expand homestead exemptions and negatively impact the property tax base – Public Act 101-0622 (HB 0961) and Public Act 101-0635 (SB 0685).

2.34 TAX INCREMENT FINANCING/2.55 TAX INCREMENT FINANCING

— IASB has worked tirelessly over the years to ensure school districts have a voice before TIF districts are extended. Many TIF extensions are considered and passed each session. This year, several TIF extensions passed in Public Act 101-0647 (SB 2052).

2.50 PTELL — DEBT SERVICE EXTENSION BASE — IASB supports all school district debt limit proposals. Several were contained in Public Act 101-0646 (SB 1937).

5.01 BOARD RIGHTS — Public Act 101-0633 (HB 2455), the labor omnibus bill, contains a provision IASB opposed which is to allow Education Support Personnel to qualify for unemployment insurance benefits during the summer months and any vacation breaks lasting a week or longer this year. There is no cost to school districts for this year, but labor has indicated making this provision permanent is their new top priority. There will be no funding to help school districts cover this extra cost beyond this calendar year, so this will significantly impact school district budgets if made permanent.

5.03 COLLECTIVE BARGAINING — IASB supported a provision in Public Act 101-0643 (SB 1569), which clarified that creating a remote learning program does not change any current, create any new, or remove any existing employee bargaining rights. A previous Executive Order was worded to give employees veto rights over any change in employment requirements due to remote learning.

5.08 WORKERS' COMPENSATION LAW — IASB staff worked with the business community to prevent the adoption of a proposed administrative change to the burden of proof for Workers Compensation cases due to COVID-19. The proposed expansion was estimated to add a cost of \$9-10 billion to Illinois' Workers Compensation system costs. Public Act 101-0633 (HB 2455), the labor omnibus bill, contains a compromise on the issue that allows an employer to rebut with certain evidence the presumption that any COVID-19 cases are automatically due to the work environment.

6.01 LOCAL CONTROL — IASB supported provisions in several omnibus bills that granted certain flexibilities to school districts during this uncertain time. Public Act 101-0632 (HB 2096) allows bids for contracts over \$25,000 for construction purposes to be “communicated, accepted, or opened electronically”. Public Act 101-0640 (SB 2135) allows school boards to conduct meetings without having school board members physically present at the meeting site, in times of emergency declared by the Governor.



Public Act 101-0643 (SB 1569) contained additional flexibilities IASB supported, including:

- Allows for up to five remote learning planning days as pupil attendance days for calculation of length of school term.
- Waives the five clock-hour requirement for school attendance during the COVID-19 crisis.
- Allows school districts to utilize E-learning days for remote learning days.
- Provides authorization for remote learning, E-learning and blended delivery of education when schools are closed due to a public health emergency.
- Extends the expiration date for one year, allowing school districts to utilize interfund transfers.
- Removes work proficiency tests for career and technical educator license endorsements, eliminates school support personnel intern endorsement, and allows visiting international educator endorsement to be valid for five years.
- Waives certain requirements for student teacher applicants during a public health emergency and allows student teachers to complete student teaching requirements through remote learning, and waives certain requirements for student teaching and business management internships.
- Waives student curricular mandates regarding Patriotism and Representative Government, Physical Education, graduation requirements, and others during a declared disaster.

7.08 POLLING PLACES IN SCHOOLS — It has been the position of IASB since 2007 that there are serious concerns with forcing school districts to be polling places. Although the language adopted in Public Act 101-0642 (SB 1863), to make Election Day November 2020 an official state holiday so schools must be closed, does not solve the issue for IASB members; it is finally recognition that using schools as polling places is a serious issue school districts struggle with.

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Legislative resources available on the IASB website:

- 2020-2021 Annual School Calendar
- Advocacy for School Board Members
- IASB Legislative Reports
- Federal Legislative Reports
- Digest of Bills Passed 2020
- Mandates Enacted since 1992